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Fall Color Tour



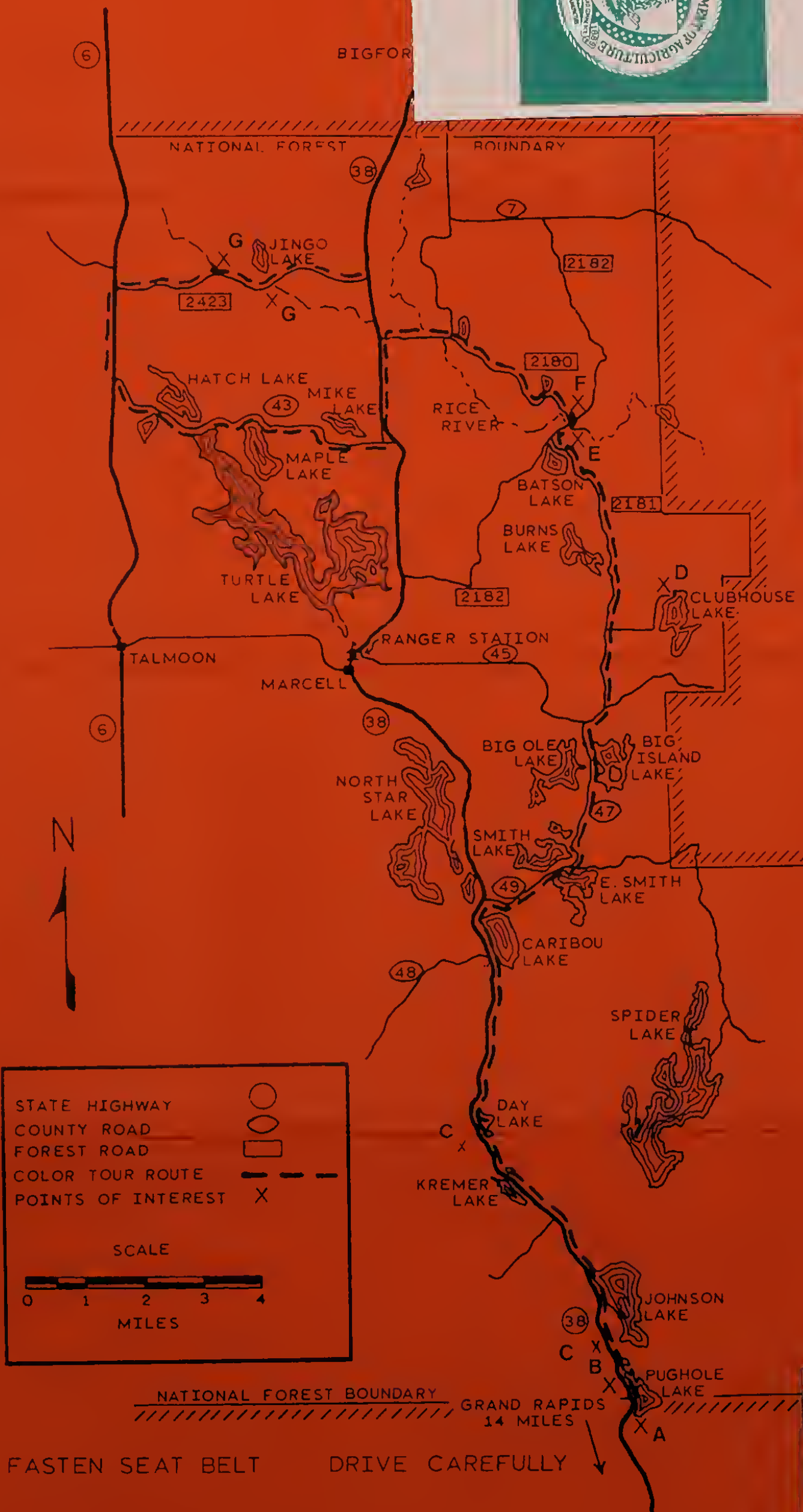
CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
MARCELL, MINNESOTA

Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

FALL COLOR MARCELL RANGE CHIPPEWA NATL



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Fall Color Tour



Welcome to the land of Color — Showplace for Mother Nature's annual fall spectacular. Each autumn she is quite busy going about with a liberal supply of paint. She colors the leaves of the trees and other plants thereby producing the symphony of color we enjoy.

In order to exhibit this fall grandeur, this automobile tour has been designed to enable you to enjoy the beauty at its best, a fleeting pleasure before the leaves flutter to the rich carpet that covers the forest floor.

The tour is designed to show all of the timber types present in the area, from the brilliant reds of the maples, through the yellows of the aspen and birch, to the browns of the oaks. Interspersed throughout are the greens of the pines, spruces and balsam firs. Pleasant views of the many lakes are also present throughout the tour. A sharp eye will catch sight of the fleet-footed deer and other wild-life as you progress on your trip.

The tour, thirty six miles in length, may be started just south of Bigfork or at the Chippewa National Forest boundary near Pughole Lake on State Highway 38. Relax, enjoy nature at its best, and drive carefully.

Points of Interest

- A. **Pughole Lake:** The starting point for the color tour northward on the Marcell Ranger District. The lake is managed for muskies by the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Section.
- B. **Red Pine Plantation:** This 20 acre plantation is one of many planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Each year The Chippewa National Forest plants approximately 2,500 acres (2.2 million seedlings) in order to assure a sustained yield of timber.
- C. **Suomi Hills:** This area is comprised of 5,000 acres of very hilly, heavily timbered terrain with numerous lakes. The area has been designated for

non-motorized use with an emphasis on the dispersed recreation experience. There are currently 21 miles of hiking/skiing trails with several dispersed campsites, and two entry points with parking provided.

- D. **Clubhouse Campground:** The tall pines in this area bring memories of the area's colorful past. This campground, among the most popular in the forest, offers camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, and boat access to Clubhouse Lake. Fishing is good in the lake offering bass, northerns, and panfish. Fish shelters have been installed by the Forest Service to improve the panfish habitat. Entrance can also be made here for the Rice River Canoe Tour developed by the Forest Service.
- E. **Rice River:** Here you can see a portion of the Rice River as it flows northwest toward Bigfork. A portion of this river has been developed as a canoe tour, complete with camping sites. The canoe tour is the 18-mile long segment of the Rice River from Clubhouse Lake to Bigfork. (Detailed information describing the Rice River Canoe Tour may be obtained from the Marcell District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, Marcell, Minnesota.)
- F. **Farm Camp:** In 1900 this was the site of a large logging camp. One building was a four decker bunk house. Horses were pastured on the natural forage of the opening. Later this was an important stopping point for homesteaders coming into the wilderness.
- G. **Jingo Lake Hunter Walking Trail:** This trail is one of the original logging roads. It has now been vegetated with clovers and grasses for wildlife food. In the fall the trail is a popular area for grouse hunting. In the winter it is a segment of the Chippewa National Forest snowmobile trail system.



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GIVE A HOOT
DON'T POLLUTE

Why the Leaves Change Color

Many people suppose that Jack Frost is responsible for the color change that occurs in the foliage each autumn, but he is not. Many of the leaves begin to change color before we have any frosts. The Indians explained the change by saying the celestial hunters had slain the Great Bear — his blood dripping on the forest changed many trees to red. Other trees turned yellow by the fat that splattered out of the kettle as the hunters cooked the meat. In reality, the change in coloring is the result of chemical processes which take place as the daylight hours shorten during autumn.

During spring and summer the leaves serve as factories, where foods necessary for the trees' growth are manufactured. This food making process takes place in numerous tiny cells of the leaf and is carried on by small green bodies (chlorophyll) that give the leaf its color. These chlorophyll bodies make the food by combining carbon from the air and hydrogen from water, using the energy of sunlight to complete the process.

In fall when the daylight hours shorten, the manufacturing process slows. The work of the leaves comes to an end. The green chlorophyll is broken up into the various substances of which it is composed. All that remains in the cell cavities of the leaves is a watery substance with a few oil globules and crystals, and a small number of yellow, highly refractive bodies. These give the leaves the coloring so familiar during the fall.

In the cone bearing trees that do not lose their leaves all at once, the green coloring matter takes on a slight brown tinge. This gives way to the lighter coloring in the spring.

National Forests provide a variety of uses, products, and pleasures for people. They were originally established to protect watersheds and supply timber, and they still do. But in addition, these forest lands are now rich in wildlife, forage, and recreation opportunities. These and other uses are managed by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Specialists in many fields coordinate and balance uses so that all Americans will receive maximum benefits throughout the years.



For information concerning other aspects of the National Forest contact:

District Ranger	or	Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service		USDA Forest Service
Marcell, MN 56657		Cass Lake, MN 56633